

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 769

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Centennial Park Conservancy.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those laudable organizations that are dedicated to improving the quality of life of the people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such organization is Centennial Park Conservancy, whose mission is to preserve, enhance, and share Centennial Park and the Parthenon, which have been essential parts of Nashville for more than a century; and

WHEREAS, working in partnership with Nashville's Metro Parks, Centennial Park Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that underwrites and presents a variety of enriching programs that have a widespread impact on the Nashville community and its visitors; and

WHEREAS, Centennial Park Conservancy is also partnering with Metro Parks on the Centennial Park Revitalization, a multi-phase transformation of the park's 132 acres of urban green space that will preserve and enhance Nashville's central park to better serve current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Centennial Park Conservancy has experienced significant growth and name changes over the past thirty-five years. The organization began in 1985 as the Athena Fund Foundation when nickels and dimes were collected by school children and adult visitors to pay for the creation of the statue Athena inside the Parthenon; upon completion of this project in 1989, the group became the Parthenon Patrons Foundation, with a focus on supporting Nashville's landmark museum; and

WHEREAS, as the organization's mission and scope were expanded to include Centennial Park in 2005, it underwent a name change to become Friends of Centennial Park and the Parthenon; then, in 2009, the nonprofit was once again renamed, this time as The Conservancy for the Parthenon and Centennial Park; and

WHEREAS, the organization significantly expanded in 2010 with the introduction of Musicians Corner, Kidsville, and the Centennial Park Master Plan; with the first phase of park improvements completed in 2017, and in an effort to focus more on the park as a whole, the organization simplified its name in 2019 to Centennial Park Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Centennial Park Conservancy began managing Nashville Earth Day and introduced the Centennial Park Maintenance Fund to focus more on helping Metro Parks maintain the park for the Nashville community; and

WHEREAS, the Parthenon Preservation Fund was created in 2021 to provide more support and care for Nashville's iconic landmark, and the second phase of park improvements focused on the Great Lawn was completed; and

WHEREAS, Centennial Park Conservancy is currently fundraising for improvements to the Park Plaza side of the park, including increasing park access from the 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue Connector and constructing an Event Pavilion; this phase is expected to be completed by 2024; and

WHEREAS, Centennial Park Conservancy significantly enriches the Nashville community by funding Parthenon exhibitions and free access to arts and educational activities in the park and Parthenon; and

WHEREAS, through the ongoing generosity of individual, corporate, and foundation partners, the organization underwrites and presents a variety of programs, including the funding of a curated series of historical and artistic exhibits and lectures at the Nashville Parthenon; presenting over 1,500 emerging, established, and legendary artists at 150 free events in the

park's Musicians Corner; and connecting more than 10,000 children annually with free and enriching opportunities for growth through education, experience, and exploration in Kidsville; and

WHEREAS, Centennial Park Conservancy also presents the annual Nashville Earth Day event and is proud to host ECHO, an engaging music series featuring new chamber music composed and arranged for the unique acoustics of the Parthenon Naos and performed in front of the 42-foot-tall statue of Athena; and

WHEREAS, by preserving, enhancing, and sharing Centennial Park and the Parthenon, Centennial Park Conservancy has made a positive impact on the Nashville community and this State, and it is fitting that this estimable organization be appropriately recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and commend the leadership, staff, and board of Centennial Park Conservancy for their myriad contributions to this State and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.